

the Capitol urging him to restore the rights of Members and staff to offer tours to our constituents.

The red coats of the CVC do not own the Capitol. Members of Congress do not own the Capitol. The American people bought and paid for it, but the CVC red coats now block Americans from seeing the Capitol with their Congressmen or staff.

We are headed to a train wreck when CVC red coats turn away thousands of American families from the Capitol over spring break. They say, sure, we'll handle your constituents, no problem. Actually, they're going to block the access of the American people to the Capitol.

Now, a recent Facebook posting by a CVC red coat reflected a stunning arrogance that should not be tolerated towards American citizens.

I urge Members to sign the bipartisan Loebsock-Kirk letter to ensure that your constituents can see the Capitol when they want, with their Member of Congress, and not be blocked by the CVC red coats.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA LOOKS TO BRING HONESTY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE BUDGET PROCESS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, last week President Obama continued to bring real change to Washington by announcing his plan to bring honesty and accountability to the budget process.

For the last 8 years, the Bush administration and Washington Republicans masked the true costs of their budget by refusing to include funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and refusing to include any funding for natural disasters, even though we all knew they would happen. These accounting gimmicks were used to make deficit projections look smaller than they actually were.

These tricks will soon be a thing of the past, as President Obama wants the American people to have facts so they can hold us all accountable. That's the way government should work, and thanks to President Obama's commitment to honesty in government, it will be instituted as part of his budget outline later this week.

Mr. Speaker, for years, congressional Democrats criticized the Bush administration for using these gimmicks, and so we commend President Obama for this very welcome change.

#### EARMARKS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President is expected to sign the omnibus appropriations bill this week, once the Senate acts on the bill.

Since the President made numerous promises to reduce earmarks during his campaign, the American people should know what is in the bill that he will be signing, another 1,100-plus page bill. This is a \$410 billion spending bill which contains 8,500 earmarks, including \$300,000 for migrating loons in Nevada, \$900,000 for planetarium equipment in Chicago, \$190,000 for trolleys in Puerto Rico, \$3 million for a foot bridge in St. Louis, \$380,000 for a light-house in Maine, \$1 million for red snappers in Florida, \$7 million for sea turtles in Hawaii, and on and on.

Migratory loons in Nevada? Red snappers in Florida? Trolleys in Puerto Rico? In a time of trillion dollar deficits, enough is enough!

#### 92ND ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP

(Mr. PIERLUISI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, 92 years ago, President Wilson signed a bill and the people of Puerto Rico became U.S. citizens.

Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States is as close as it is complex. In some instances, promises of equal treatment took too long to redeem, and there are aspects of the relationship that should trouble men and women of conscience.

But like so many American stories, this is a chronicle of progress and a determined march towards a more perfect union. For me, as for millions of my constituents, the pride we feel in being Puerto Rican is matched by the pride we feel in being American citizens. To those who express concern that any further strengthening of the bond between Puerto Rico and the U.S. will result in a weakening of Puerto Rico's identity, I submit that history and experience demonstrate otherwise.

The people of Puerto Rico have been fighting for our country ever since they became citizens. American soldiers from Puerto Rico, fiercely proud of their country and their island roots, provide powerful testimony that these feelings complement, rather than contradict, one another.

Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary, I salute the 4 million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico.

#### GOVERNMENT MEDDLING IN MARKETS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Pilgrim's Pride Poultry Company announced the closing of three chicken processing operations throughout the southeastern United States.

In and around my district in North Louisiana, 1,300 jobs were lost. It is important for the American public to know why and how these jobs were

lost. In addition to the decline in consumer protein demand, Pilgrim's Pride was most affected by high feed prices causing a loss in the last year of over \$1 billion, forcing them into bankruptcy.

The main cause of these high prices was Federal mandates to increase the use of ethanol. This large spike in corn prices is being felt throughout the country by consumers and producers alike. Is this a foreshadowing of more disasters to come because of the governmental manipulation of the energy markets?

Just like the mortgage debacle, governmental meddling in markets continues hurting the working family, both directly and indirectly.

#### FAIRNESS IN TAXES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama offered his first budget to this House last week, and it calls for fairness that hasn't been seen in this American government for a long time, fairness in taxes between the most wealthy and the least fortunate, people who need help and people who need to provide help, a budget that provides for health care, for energy, for veterans, most of all, for the issues that are most important to the American public. Investments in our infrastructure, which will spur this economy and stimulate the economy.

I would ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join with the Democrats in supporting our President who was elected with overwhelming numbers and still has overwhelming support. Confidence and support for this President is what's necessary to give people the confidence to invest in our economy and get us out of this recession.

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#### BUDGET

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in the President's address to the joint session of Congress, he said unequivocally he was opposed to bigger government. Yet the President's budget does exactly the opposite. Big government is back and is bigger than before. Under the President's plan, the national debt will double to \$20 trillion. We cannot sustain this; we cannot afford this, and we simply must say, "No."

The President said, "If your family earns less than \$250,000 a year, you will not see your taxes increase a single dime. I repeat: not a single dime."

Yet the President's budget calls for significant tax increases that will be paid by every American, by 100 percent of us. Let us remember it is not the